

Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCCT-01 SY-05 AID-05 IO-11

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /090 W

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R 201522Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8245

INFO AMCONGEN ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 2158

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: ARRESTS CONTINUE: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 1876 (DTG 131415Z FEB 76), B. ADDIS ABABA 1929 (DTG 171357Z FEB 76), C. ADDIS ABABA 1931 (DTG 171357Z FEB 76), D. ADDIS ABABA 2006 (DTG 181510Z FEB 76), E. ADDIS ABABA 2086 (DTG 191329Z FEB 76), F. ADDIS ABABA 2087 (DTG 191356Z FEB 76).

1. ARRESTS CONTINUE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE WIVES/RELATIVES OF THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN TAKEN DURING THE LAST FEW HOURS; GETAHUN TESSEMMA (EX-MININT); THE LATE GENERAL ABY ABEBE (EX-MOD); SEIFU MAHTEMME SELASSIE (EX-MINED); ABEBE KEBEDE (EX ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL OF HSI FOUNDATION); SEYOUM HAREGOT'S YOUNGER BROTHER (NAME UNKNOWN); THE SISTER (WZO. TSION) OF THE LATE CHIEF OF STATE AMAN MIKAEL ANDOM; THE LATE RAS MESFINI'S DAUGHTER. ETHIOPIAN SECRETARIES RELATED TO RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS NOW

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RETIRED OR TO THE FORMER ARISTOCRACY WERE ALSO MARKED FOR

ARREST. EXAMPLES ARE A 24 YEAR OLD WOMAN EMPLOYED AT THE CANADIAN EMBASSY AND AN ETHIOPIAN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (ALMAZ TEDLE) EMPLOYED AT ECA. THE LATTER AVOIDED CAPTURE NARROWLY BY HIDING WHEN POLICE CAME FOR HER. THE CANADIAN EMBASSADOR PROTECTED THE VIOLATION OF EMBASSY PREMISES WHICH ACCOMPANIED THE ARREST OF THE FORMER; THE ECA EXECSEC ATTEMPTED TO SECURE FROM THE AUTHORITIES GUARANTEES TO PROTECT HIS ADMIN ASSISTANT WITH UNKNOWN RESULTS. WE HEAR THAT THREE LOW LEVEL EMPLOYEES OF THE MINNCD WERE ALSO TAKEN BUT NOTE THAT WE HAVE AS YET NO RPT NO REPORTS THAT OFFICIALS EVEN APPROACHING TEFERRA DEGUEFE IN RANK OR STATION ARE BEING SEIZED.

2. RUMORS. RUMORS REFLECT A PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF HIGHTENED DIRG INSTABILITY AND FACTIONALISM. EXAMPLES INCLUDE ALLEGED ARREST OF DIRG'S SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN LC ATNAFU FOLLOWING HIS PASSIONATE DEFENSE OF ABUNA TEWOFLOS IN A PMAC DEBATE HELD PRIOR TO THE DECISION TO DEPOSE THE LATTER. AN ALTERNATE VISION OF THIS STORY HAS TEWOFLOS AND ATNAFU ALREADY DEAD. STILL OTHER VERSIONS HAVE BOTH MENGISTU AND ATNAFU UNDER ARREST AND MAJOR SISAY RUNNING THE SHOW. OF COURSE, ONE CAN ALSO HEAR THAT SISAY IS UNDER INVESTIGATION, MENGISTU IS RUNNING THINGS WITH A HIGH HAND AND ATNAFU'S POSITION IS ERODING.

3. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO DATE TO SUBSTANTIATE THESE STORIES. HOWEVER, DEPT WILL RECALL THAT THERE IS CONNECTION IN PEOPLE'S MINDS BETWEEN ABUNA TEWOFLOS AND LC ATNAFU WHO ARE BOTH FROM GOJJAM. IT IS THEREFORE BUT A STEP FOR PEOPLE TO READ THE TEWOFLOS DETHRONEMENT AS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF SOME SORT OF DEFEAT FOR ATNAFU. BE THAT AS IT MAY, IT IS, PERHAPS, SIGNIFICANT THAT ALL RUMORS WE HAVE PICKED UP THUS FAR ON THE RELATIVE POSITION OF THE DIRG'S LEADING LIGHTS ASSERT THAT ATNAFU IS IN TROUBLE. ONE VERSION HAS IT THAT MANGHISTU WAS ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE DIRG THAT ATNAFU HAD BEEN APPOINTING EXCLUSIVELY FOLLOW GOJJAMIS TO KEY POSITIONS ALL OVER THE EPMG AND TO PRESENT THIS AS EVIDENCE TO ATNAFU'S COUNTER REVOLUTIONARY ATTEMPT TO BUILD AN INDEPENDENT POWER BASE. COULD BE. FOR THE RECORD, SISAY HAS BEEN ON THE FRONT PAGE OF NEWSPAPERS AND ON TV WITH TEFERI BANTE RECEIVING FOREIGN DIGNITARIES TO FEB. 19, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO TRACE OF THE TWO VICE CHAIRMEN.

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4. THERE IS ANOTHER INTRIGUING THOUGH ALSO STILL UNCONFIRMED REPORT WHICH ALLEGES THE ARREST OF RETIRED GENERAL GEBRE EGHZIABHER, TEFERI BANTE'S BROTHER-IN-LAW. WE ARE CHECKING.

5. LASTLY, DEP SHOULD BE AWARE THAT STORY NOW CIRCULATING WIDELY HAS PRINCESS TENAGNE WORQ DEAD IN PRISON. AS DEPT AWARE, WE HAD HEARD RECENTLY THAT SHE WAS UNWELL.

HUMMEL

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NNN

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